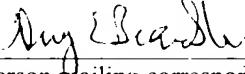


PATENT  
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I hereby certify under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as **first class mail** with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ruiz-Opazo et al. Art Unit: 1635  
Serial No.: 10/040,722 Examiner: Whiteman, Brian A.  
Filed: January 7, 2002 Customer No.: 21559  
Title: METHOD OF ASSAYING MODULATORS OF HYPERTENSION

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

DECLARATION OF DR. NELSON RUIZ-OPOAZO UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

1. I am an inventor of the invention described and claimed in the above-referenced patent application.
2. My co-authors in Herrera et al., "The  $\alpha 1$  Na, K-ATPase Gene Is a Susceptibility Hypertension Gene in the Dahl Salt-sensitive<sup>HSD</sup> Rat," (*J. Clin. Invest.* 102:1102-1111, 1998), Victoria L. M. Herrera, Hou Xiang Xie, Lyle V. Lopez, and Nicholas J. Schork, worked under my direction and control, and did not contribute to the claimed inventive concepts.
3. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and

further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patents issued thereon.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Nelson Ruiz-Opazo

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